

Record

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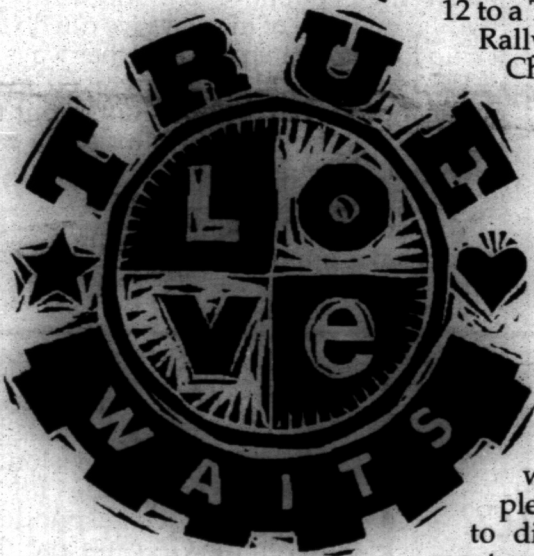
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'Safe sex' false advertising, runaway says

NORRIS, Tenn. (BP) — Kim Hurst believes that anyone who tells teenagers safe sex means wearing a condom is promoting false advertising.

"I got pregnant when I was 15, the very first time I had sex. And he was wearing a condom," said Hurst, who is now a youth leader at Island Home Church, Norris, Tenn.

Hurst said she's a big believer in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) True Love Waits (TLW) campaign — the international movement that challenges teens and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

A college student and mother, Hurst has about 30 people in her youth group. She took two of the four youth over the age of 12 to a True Love Waits Super Rally, Jan. 29, at First Church, Concord, Tenn.

The rally was held to promote True Love Waits Goes Campus, which was launched on Valentine's Day 1997 and is being held again on school campuses across the nation on Feb. 13.

The Goes Campus event give teens who take a virginity pledge the opportunity to display their commitment cards at school.

"The vision for 1998 is that True Love Waits commitment cards will be displayed on every secondary school campus in America," said Jimmy Hester, one of the BSSB campaign organizers.



PLEDGING ABSTINENCE — Kim Hurst (right) youth leader at Island Home Church in Norris, Tenn., discusses the True Love Waits pledge cards with two of her youth, Jamie Webber (left) and Erin Lowe. Hurst took the girls to a True Love Waits Super Rally on Jan. 29 at First Church, Concord, Tenn. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"I was a runaway at the time I got pregnant," Hurst said. "My life was a mess. One thing I've said to kids ever since is, 'If you believe a condom is safe, let me introduce you to my daughter.' (Getting pregnant) ain't so much of a statistic when it's you."

Hurst said the thought of an abortion never crossed her mind even though the father "was nothing but trouble."

Hurst, 22, married the music minister at Island Home

Church three years ago. They have the daughter from her first pregnancy, a second child, and another on the way.

"(Adults) can't just throw a teenager out into the water and say, 'Come on now, make a commitment and stick to it.' They've got to help them."

Students and youth leaders who conduct True Love Waits Goes Campus events are asked to report the results of the efforts to the national True Love Waits team by Feb. 27.

Reports may be faxed to (615) 251-2830, sent via e-mail to truelovewaits@bssb.com, or issued electronically through an on-line reporting mechanism at www.bssb.com/tlwbase.htm.

On April 14, True Love Waits leaders will deliver a full report (including the name of every participating school that reports and the number of students making the commitment) to the office of President Bill Clinton.

For more information, call (800) LUV WAIT.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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'StarQuest Online' taking off

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "StarQuest Online," a new Web site designed to promote and supplement the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's (BSSB) Vacation Bible School (VBS) materials for 1998, recently went live on the Internet world-wide computer network.

The site can be accessed by clicking on "SSB Sites" on the Sunday School Board Online home page, located at www.bssb.com. Web surfers can go directly to the VBS site by using the following Internet address: www.bssb.com/yourvbs.

StarQuest Online reflects the Sunday School Board's space-related theme for its VBS '98 materials — "StarQuest: A Galactic Good News Adventure."

Among the site's numerous features are: VBS tips and testimonies, downloadable logos and planning suggestions, titles and Scripture references of all VBS lessons, links to NASA sites, an online catalog of resources, and ordering information.

Also included is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Looking back

10 years ago

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approves the appointment of Mississippi native Olinda Wilson to Trinidad in a two-year pilot project involving ministry to the hearing-impaired. Wilson becomes the first foreign missionary appointed specifically to this specialized ministry.

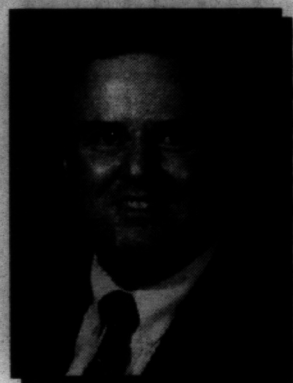
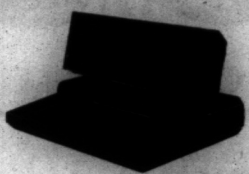
20 years ago

The Royal Ambassadors (RAs) and Girls in Action (GAs) of Oloh Church in Lamar County help their church more than double their goal for the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, raising over \$500 in a walkathon to benefit the offering.

50 years ago

First Church, Jackson, takes pleasure in announcing that the entire morning service from 11 a.m. - 12 noon, is now being broadcast over radio station WRBC, at 620 Kilocycles — 62 on the radio dial. The broadcast will continue each Sunday until further notice. W. Douglas Hudgins is pastor.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Arming ourselves with information

In the fast-paced information culture in which we live, having access to C-SPAN alone is worth the price of cable television. The non-commercial channel, available free with basic service on most cable television systems, is sponsored at no small cost by the U.S. cable television industry.

One of the most appealing qualities of C-SPAN is the gavel-to-gavel coverage of national events that is missed in the heavily-edited, often-slanted sound bites found on network television news.

C-SPAN's unvarnished, word-for-word coverage enables us to contrast the "big picture" against what the Washington media types and New York City spin doctors would have us believe.

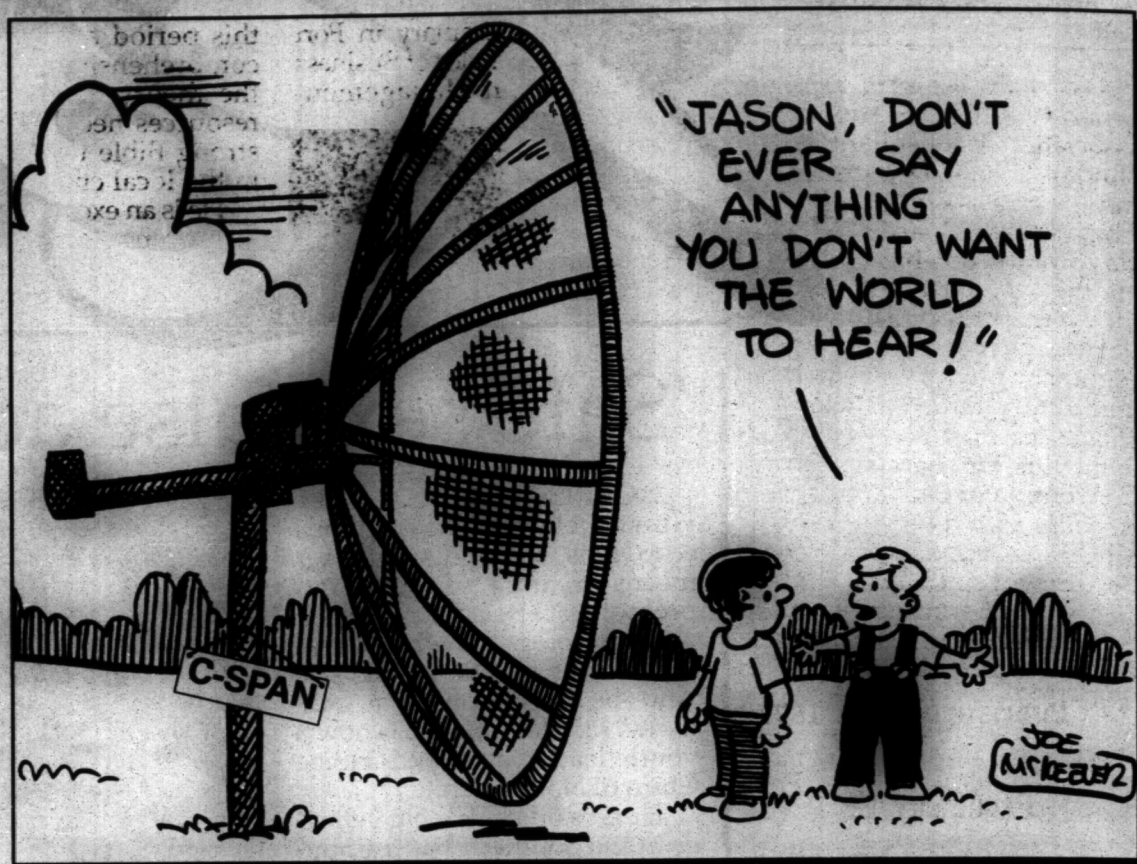
A few years ago, all three network television news shows broadcasted glowing reports of a Gay Pride parade in a northern city. Video abounded of well-dressed homosexuals and lesbians walking respectfully through the streets, giving interviews on how normal they are and how much they want to be accepted.

C-SPAN's unedited coverage of the same event, however, revealed poor attendance along the curbs, parade floats containing naked women performing sex acts on each other, and men clothed around the waist with huge, anatomically-correct false phalluses. We had been deceived by the networks.

It's not a Christian channel, but Christians should be watching C-SPAN to help us draw the "big picture."

For example, the Washington Press Club held a black-tie dinner on February 3, broadcast on C-SPAN. In the cozy environment of Washington insiders, the journalists and politicians relaxed and really let down their hair.

A prominent U.S. senator spent most of his time at the podium telling off-color, double-entendre jokes to the large crowd of appreciative journalists. He bragged of helping to bring gambling to his state in order to fleece tourists.



A congressman was next to the podium. He played off the senator's dirty jokes to make his own dirty jokes.

The most stunning oratory of the night, however, belonged to the master of ceremonies — a high-profile syndicated columnist who peppered her introductions of the other speakers with profanity, tales of transsexuals, and the taking of the Lord's name in vain.

The common vulgarity of these leaders would have been hard to capture in a 20-second sound bite, but thanks to C-SPAN, we got the "big picture." Both politicians have aspirations to higher office. The syndicated columnist would of course like to appear in more newspapers.

For those reasons, their public behavior is much different than their unguarded

moments at an exclusive private dinner. Maybe they don't care, given that they knew the C-SPAN cameras were rolling, and what does that say about their opinion of us?

At any rate, the moral is that Christians should take every opportunity to arm ourselves with information about our leaders — especially when their private lives don't match their public pronouncements. C-SPAN is only one of the ways we can do that. It's up to us to search out the other ways.

We have a right to be involved in the political processes of this country, but that right carries the responsibility to be well-informed. If we're ever to be taken seriously, we must be well-informed.

You can be certain our opponents — and we do have opponents — have taken the time to do so.

GUEST OPINION



God's providence

By Craig Slay, member
First Church, Brandon

sendoff. Then, I asked God to explain himself. Hearing no response, I prayed for guidance.

God and I looked over my family's budget for items to trim, excluding the tithe. We discovered a life insurance policy, the worthy beneficiary thereof being an institution of higher learning.

Each month I paid a \$75 premium, and each month the institution sent me a thank-you note. God and I decided the \$75 could be used for a different purpose.

The next morning I called the institution to break the bad news. A very kind lady listened patiently as I explained my need to cancel the policy.

I felt it necessary to further explain our belief that God has

called us to provide financial support to my aunt and uncle, and that the extra \$75 would go much further in Bosnia than here in the U.S.

I did not expect the lady to understand. I was surprised when she said she understood perfectly, because she teaches Girls in Action (GAs) at her church.

The night before our conversation she and her co-teacher discussed their desire to change the group's mission emphasis from local charities to foreign missionaries. However, neither of them knew any missionaries personally, certainly none from Mississippi with whom the girls could identify.

They prayed that God

would identify missionaries on whom their girls could focus. My phone call, she said, was God's immediate provision.

Plans were made for an exchange of correspondence between the GA class and their newly-adopted missionaries to Bosnia.

As I hung up the phone, I thanked God for his marvelous providential guidance and for his unfailing goodness to his children. I marveled at the seemingly incalculable chance encounter that brought me and the kind lady together — an encounter that proved God's ways are not our ways and that he does not owe an explanation for how he weaves his will through the situations we encounter.

Our responsibility is simply to heed his call and follow what we know to be his will. He gets all of the richly deserved glory.

God took a child-like reaction to seemingly bad news and turned it into a reminder that he is in control of all things and consistently works things out to the good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

Slay is a Brandon attorney.

Wills selected to head MBCB's Sunday School Dept.

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

David T. Wills of Clinton, general administration and associational consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), was promoted Feb. 5 to director of that department by the MBCB Executive Committee.

He replaced Keith Wilkinson, who resigned in mid-1997 to return to his native Oklahoma and accept a position with the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Wills, 35, has served in the MBCB Sunday School Department since 1995. Prior to that, he was minister of education at First Church, Pearl (1992-95) and First Church, Oxford (1989-1992); and minister of education, youth, and recreation at First Church, Amory (1987-80).

A graduate of Clinton High School, Wills holds a Masters of

Religious Education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Mississippi College in Clinton.

Wills has been an active member of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Educators Association, serving that group as secretary-treasurer. He has also served as a state special worker in the areas of Sunday School and discipleship training.

Eugene Dobbs, MBCB executive assistant, told the Executive Committee that Wills has coordinated the work of the Sunday School Department since the departure of Wilkinson.

"I have attended the depart-

ment staff meetings during this period and have seen his comprehensive knowledge of the theory, methodology, and resources necessary to build a strong Bible teaching ministry in the local church.

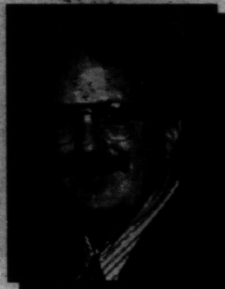
He is an excellent planner and has strong organizational and leadership skills," Dobbs said.

Wills said he is excited about the future of Sunday School in Mississippi.

"I believe Sunday School has been and will continue to be the most vital tool the church has in reaching and assimilating people.

"It is my desire, as well as the desire of the entire Sunday School Department staff, to help churches, under God's leadership, to design and implement a Sunday School ministry that will change the lives of the people in their communities," Wills said.

Wills is married to the former Kathy Taylor of Clinton.



Wills



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
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\$2.15 million OK'd for missions, projects

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) on Feb. 5 approved the distribution of \$2.15 million for missions work and Mississippi projects from unencumbered reserves and the 1997 challenge fund.

Unencumbered reserves are funds not specifically allocated by the convention board or designated by donors, such as interest earned on investments and MBCB departmental funds returned from the previous budget year.

Unencumbered reserves totaled \$1,198,469 on Dec. 31, 1997. The Executive Committee on Feb. 5 approved expenditures of \$1,179,460 from those reserves.

The challenge fund is comprised of gifts from Mississippi Baptists above the annual MBCB basic budget. At the end of the 1997 budget year, the challenge fund was more than \$1.94 million.

At the direction of Mississippi Baptist Convention messengers who approved the 1997 MBCB budget, the challenge funds were distributed to international missions (20%), Mississippi missions (20%), North American missions (10%), and Christian higher education in Mississippi (50%).

The Executive Committee on Feb. 5 approved the use of \$970,540 from the various challenge fund allocations.

The unencumbered reserves and challenge fund monies allotted by the Executive Committee on Feb. 5, totalling \$2.15 million, include:

■ \$611,784 of unencumbered reserves for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Combined with the international missions portion of the challenge budget, Mississippi Baptists have contributed \$1,000,000 in gifts above the offering totals received from individuals and churches.

■ \$250,000 of unencumbered reserves, to be escrowed in a reserve fund for missions in "World A," the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) list of the final unreached people groups around the world.

The funds will be accessed as requests are received from IMB and approved by

the MBCB administration.

■ \$5,892 of unencumbered reserves for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Combined with the North American missions portion of the challenge budget, Mississippi Baptists have contributed \$200,000 in gifts above the offering totals received from individuals and churches.

■ \$150,000 of unencumbered reserves, to be escrowed in the amounts of \$50,000 each for proposed partnership missions projects between the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Canada, Maryland/Delaware, and Ukraine.

■ \$250,000 of the Mississippi missions portion of the challenge budget, to be earmarked for directed evangelistic efforts across the state. The Mississippi portion of the challenge budget totals \$388,216.

■ Up to \$150,000 for the ongoing MBCB missions awareness campaign initiated in 1997 by the MBCB Church Information Support Team, in the amounts of \$138,216 from the Mississippi missions challenge budget allocation and \$11,784 from unencumbered reserves.

■ \$150,000 of unencumbered reserves for the planned adult lodge at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, with the understanding that the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will first exhaust their own reserve accounts before spending MBCB funds.

"Collectively, the above outlined recommendations total \$2,150,000. The eternal impact is immeasurable," said MBCB executive director Bill Causey.

The Executive Committee also promoted David T. Wills from general administration and associational consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department to director of that department. (See related article on this page.)

Wills replaces Keith Wilkinson, who resigned in mid-1997 to accept a position with the Baptist General

Convention of Oklahoma.

The Executive Committee also approved: ■ An advance of \$24,205 for the purchase of a new pickup for the Mississippi Baptist/Honduras partnership, to be repaid over a three-year period.

■ up to \$41,000 from the MBCB operating fund for maintenance needs at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko.

■ up to \$115,000 to replace the 12-year-old telephone system in the Baptist Building, for which replacement parts are no longer manufactured.

■ subordination agreements for Highland Colony Church in Ridgeland and Castlewoods Church in Brandon. The agreements are legal documents that clear the way for the two MBCB-sponsored churches to expand their facilities.

■ the election of Marvin Howard, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Smithdale, to fill the unexpired convention board term of Franklin Association representative Roy Myers, former pastor of Meadville Church, Meadville, who retired and moved to West Point.

A nominee to fill an unexpired convention board term must be nominated by the affected association and elected by the Executive Committee.

\$2.15 MILLION FOR MISSIONS, PROJECTS

	MBCB UNENCUMBERED RESERVES \$1,179,460	INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS CHALLENGE \$388,216	N. AMERICAN MISSIONS CHALLENGE \$194,108	MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS CHALLENGE \$388,216
LOTTIE MOON	\$611,784	*disbursed to International Mission Board	*disbursed to North American Mission Board	
"WORLD A"	\$250,000			
ANNIE ARMSTRONG	\$5,892			
PARTNERSHIPS	\$150,000			
MISS. EVANGELISM				\$250,000
MISSIONS AWARENESS	\$11,784			
ADULT LODGE	\$150,000			

Source: MBCB Executive Committee

Religion plays surprising role in abuse cases

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Fourth in a series

Alice and John are not their real names, and though certain facts have been changed in the story to protect anonymity, their story is all too real.

Though married for a number of years, a sudden change



guage that they should have a family. Alice felt they had decided this question years ago. They were both professionals committed to their respective careers.

Mere suggestions about having children, giving up her job and being an at-home mom, gave way to demands. He was the head of the house, just as Christ was the head of the church. He demanded submission.

Her continued refusal to start a family made John even more angry, and the demands grew into physical threats. When he carried out the threats, a divorce soon followed.

To their new-found friends at church, Alice was an evil woman, refusing to submit to her husband. She had to find a totally new life.

Domestic violence and the Christian home are two phrases that sound as if they do not belong in the same sentence. Unfortunately, they are linked together far too often.

"The church has been in collusion (with domestic violence) in some respects," said Elizabeth K. Holmes, consultant for women's and family issues at the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

"As recent as the late 1800s beating a wife was legal in order to keep her in her place," Holmes said. "Even in the church this was preached from

the pulpit as an interpretation of the scripture 'wives submit to your husbands.'"

She pointed out that the colloquial phrase, "rule of thumb," comes from an early colonial modification of English law pertaining to the instruments a man could use to beat his wife. The new colonial rule said a man could only use a cane as thick as his thumb, thus "rule of thumb."

While progress has been made from the ancient Roman and Greek laws that a woman and children were the property, the effects of this attitude are still felt in modern society and inadvertently supported from the pulpit, Holmes indicated.

Holmes recounted testimony from numerous battered women who went to a minister for help. She said more often than not, a woman hears him say one of two things: "What have you been doing to provoke his anger?" or "You should go home, pray, and submit to your husband."

"This type of answer is rooted in misunderstanding of the biblical teaching of submission in marriage and of the roles of men and women in marriage," Holmes said.

Violent men tend to have inflexible attitudes and beliefs about the roles and functions of men and women in a marriage, according to Grant L. Martin in *Counseling for Family Violence and Abuse* (Word, 1987).

"Many batterers are very

dominating and demand control of every aspect of their families," Martin wrote.

He will use the scriptural admonition "wives submit to your husbands" as a weapon to dominate her, Martin indicated.

"The problem is not with God's order for the family, but with man's inflexibility, overdomineering misuse of headship beyond the requisites of love, mutual subjection, and understanding," he wrote.

While the concept of submission and its companion topic, headship, are clearly biblical, Martin points out that the most common fault is the omission of the equally biblical teaching of "mutual submission."

"Paul begins (Eph. 5:21-33) with the explicit statement, 'submit to one another out of reverence to Christ.' Paul realizes that relationships in a family are meant to be reciprocal and accountable. There must be equal give and take in the family for growth to occur," he wrote.

"There is nothing wrong with the 'traditional' marriage, but there is a great deal wrong with a husband who uses violence to maintain his position within the marriage."

For more information about domestic violence contact Holmes at the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Carver School future remains unsettled with transfer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Pointing to a change in the direction of social work as a profession and a 1995 mandate by its trustees, Southern Seminary has given its Carver School of Social Work to a Kentucky Baptist college.

work, as a profession, has taken in the last 20 years.

What was actually transferred to Campbellsville was not fully identified, but it appears neither real estate nor endowment were included.

Mohler told news media that what was transferred was basically the legal entity known as the Carver School of Social Work opened by Southern Seminary in 1984, including records and other documentation as well as some library materials.

However, a fight could be brewing over what should become of the assets the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) gave to benefit Southern Seminary in 1963 when the seminary assumed ownership of the Carver School of Missions and Social Work from WMU.

"It is not a dead issue," WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said in a Jan. 20 interview. "We've just been sort of at a stalemate with Southern not quite finalized on the disposition of the Carver School."

O'Brien said WMU leaders had determined "not to take any action until it was clear the trust funds were not being used as they were given." Now that final disposition of the Carver School has been announced, WMU may take a fresh look at the question, O'Brien acknowledged.

At stake is several hundred thousands of dollars of endowment funds, including funding for scholarships and an endowed chair that bears WMU's name.

The assets were largely raised by dona-

tions from Baptist women in Kentucky and across the South through the first half of this century.

Mohler spoke of the transfer to Campbellsville only in terms of what the Carver School had become in recent history.

The Carver School of Church Social Work, as it was known in its final decade at Southern Seminary, had its origins as the WMU Training School founded in Louisville in 1907 at a time when the seminary did not admit female students.

In keeping with the continued growth of the school and the emphasis on social work, it was renamed the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in 1952.

In 1963 the Carver School was merged with Southern Seminary for the purpose of achieving accreditation. When it finally offered an accredited degree in 1984, it became the only accredited school of church social work in America.

Campbellsville University officials, in a news release, said they were "extremely pleased to have finalized this agreement."

"The Carver School of Social Work already has established itself nationally as a leading academic center for graduate studies in social work. We will continue that standard of excellence."

Campbellsville, now with 1,600 students, was founded in 1906 and is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It plans to begin course work in the fall of 1998 with a master's of social work degree.

From Baptist Press and The (Ky.) Western Recorder

Mohler named to 40 'Young Leaders'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A national higher education magazine has named R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary, one of 40 "Young Leaders of the Academy."

"Change" magazine, published by the American Association for Higher Education, released results of the national survey of educators and profiled the leaders chosen in its January-February 1998 issue.

Nominations for "Young Leaders of the Academy" were sought in a letter sent to 11,000 members of the higher education community, a full-page advertisement in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* journal and through an Internet web site created for the poll, according to Barry Munitz and David Breneman, coordinators of The Leadership Project. The Project conducted the survey.

Associate editor Lorraine B. Sekera said *Change* has a circulation of 13,500 and is targeted to administrators and faculty members in colleges and universities in the United States.

Southern Seminary and Campbellsville (Ky.) University announced the transfer Jan. 19. Seminary trustees had voted in 1995 to close the school upon the recommendation of President R. Albert Mohler Jr.

"Having now completed the transfer of (Carver) to Campbellsville University, we will begin to restructure programs of study to incorporate classes giving attention to Christian ministries in a social context," Mohler told Baptist Press.

Mohler said a shift in the program was made necessary by the direction social

Opening salvos fired in Mormon debate

PROVO, Utah (BP) — The debate continues over whether Mormons are a part of historic Christianity — this time in an address by a church apostle, Boyd K. Packer, to 15,000 students at Brigham Young University (BYU) Feb. 1, reported by The Salt Lake Tribune, and a letter-to-the-editor reply by Phil Roberts, director of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's (NAMB) interfaith witness team.

Packer said he was addressing his remarks for "someone not present with us," The Tribune reported.

"My message is for those who teach and write and produce films which claim that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) is not a Christian church and that we, the members, are not Christian," Packer said at the Provo university's Marriott Center.

Packer, acting president of the Quorum of the Twelve, a tier of Mormon authority second only to the LDS governing First Presidency, gave "one of the strongest declarations in memory about the nature of the faith" in his lecture at BYU, The Tribune reported Feb. 2.

Packer did not mention the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) by name in his address, the newspaper noted.

The SBC will hold its annual meeting in Salt Lake City June 9-11. NAMB's interfaith witness team has prepared several resources for witnessing to Mormons, including a video, "The Mormon Puzzle."

Replied Roberts, "Our video, 'The Mormon Puzzle,' was an honest attempt to delineate fairly our differences. That is why Mormon apologists are on the film articulating them.

"What could be unfair or subversive about clarifying these differences and inviting Mormon theologians to help us?"

Roberts, recapping various Mormon beliefs, noted in his letter, "All of these con-

cepts began with Joseph Smith and are not a part of biblical and historical Christianity."

The Tribune listed several evidences Packer cited for Mormonism's roots in Christianity:

- Mormon scripture's "harmonious witness" to Christ's birth, life, teachings, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and atonement.

- The Book of Mormon's account of Jesus appearing to his disciples and instructing them to name their new church for him.



LDS Temple in Salt Lake City

- Mormon hymns and anthems testifying to the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The paper noted Packer acknowledged Mormon beliefs "will continue to be misunderstood and disturb our critics," such as:

- The LDS church is the "one true and living" church on earth.

- The Book of Mormon and other scriptures rank on par with the Bible.

- Revelation continues to be received through Mormon apostles and prophets.

- The trinity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost are three distinct personages, with the Father having a physical body "as tangible as man's."

- LDS members are "spirit children" of God capable of becoming like he is.

- Mormon salvation is not by grace but by grace "after all we can do."

Roberts, in listing differences between historic Christianity and Mormonism, wrote in his letter to the editor: "Mormonism teaches that God was once an ordinary human being who achieved godhood, that Jesus was procreated as a literal offspring of 'heavenly father and mother,' and that the way to the highest blessing of heaven (the celestial kingdom in Mormon parlance) passes through the gates of Mormon temples where one must be sealed, endowed and married to achieve exaltation."

Roberts concluded his letter, noting he was writing "tongue in cheek."

"I will propose, as director of the Interfaith Witness Team of the North American Mission Board, SBC, that all Southern Baptists going to Salt Lake City in June desist from encouraging Mormons to become Baptists if the LDS Church will agree to withdraw all of their 50,000-plus missionaries from their proselytization efforts of Protestant Christians to become LDS.

"After all, it is the gospel alone and not any church that is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16)."

Furr: Mormons miffed at Baptist comments on LDS

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Dir.

Leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) are concerned that Baptists have the audacity to describe the church as non-Christian, said interfaith witness expert Jimmy Furr at the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Furr, interfaith witness consultant for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Atlanta, was invited to the Jan. 19-20 conference at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, to prepare Mississippi Baptists for evangelical activities during the 1998 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah — headquarters for the LDS church more commonly known as Mormons.

Furr told participants at the conference that even former U.S. President Jimmy Carter — himself a Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher — has been quoted as saying he believes Southern Baptists are going to Salt Lake City to evangelize people who are already Christian.

Furr pointed out that Mormons are not Christians as Baptists understand Christianity. Baptists call on such biblical verses as I John 5:12-13 (NIV), "He who has the Son has life... I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life," he said.

Furr explained that Mormon salvation requires more, including:

- faith.
- repentance.

- baptism by immersion.
- laying on of hands.
- ordination to Melchizedek priesthood for men.
- temple endowments.
- celestial temple marriage.
- temple works.
- keeping the word of wisdom.
- sustaining the prophet.
- tithing.
- weekly sacrament meetings.
- obedience.

Furr said Mormons consider as scripture more than just the Bible, which they believe to be the Word of God "as far as it is translated correctly." They add the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price, Doctrine, and covenants, he reported.

Mormons also believe their "living prophet," currently a man named Gordon Hinkley, can receive new revelation on any subject and that new revelations are to be considered scriptures, he added.

According to Furr, Mormon concepts include the beliefs that God:

- is an exalted man.
- has a physical body.
- has a wife or wives.
- had a father, grandfather, etc.
- is one among countless other gods in the universe.

"It is not impossible to lead a Mormon to faith in Christ, but it is difficult" said Furr.

He stressed that in witnessing to Mormons, Southern Baptists must know their faith, understand Mormon beliefs, use specific passages from the Bible, build

personal relationships, and not allow Mormons to use the Bible as a "hook."

"Don't forget the bold witness of your testimony," Furr said.

The road to Salt Lake City...

Southern Baptists are invited to participate in a June 5-7 witnessing blitz to share Christ with residents of Salt Lake City, Utah. Utah is a predominantly Mormon state and headquarters for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — the formal name of the Mormon Church — is located in Salt Lake City.

To participate in either a block party, personal evangelism, or street evangelism, churches or individuals can contact Crossover Salt Lake City, c/o Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 1347, Draper, Utah 84020-1347.

The Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is recruiting 50 college students to be part of a Southern Baptist Convention-wide evangelistic outreach in Salt Lake City on June 4-14. For more information, contact Ed Deuschle, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

A video entitled "The Mormon Puzzle" has been produced by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Atlanta and has been mailed to churches. For information on the videotape, contact Deuschle at the above address and telephone numbers.

Pikes Peak Association in Colorado Springs, Colo., is hosting a prayer walk for their city and association on June 6, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Salt Lake City. Organizers are requesting that messengers en route to the annual meeting detour by Colorado Springs to help local Baptists in this effort. For more information, contact Charles Aiken, Pikes Peak Baptist Association, 1715 Monterey Road, Suite 120, Colorado Springs, CO 80910. Telephone: (719) 635-0026.

Garaywa lodge groundbreaking set for March 5

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new adult lodge at Camp Garaywa in Clinton will be held on March 5 at 10 a.m. The event will be followed by a complimentary light lunch.

The lodge will be available to all Mississippi Baptists for retreats, Bible conferences, and other events.

For more information, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Miss. WMU meeting slated for March 16-17

Southern Baptist leaders Dellanna O'Brien, Henry Blackaby, and Lewis Myers will highlight the 1998 Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) annual meeting March 16-17 at First Church, Hattiesburg.

Sessions will be held on the afternoon and evening of March 16, and on the morning of March 17, according to Marjean Patterson, executive director/treasurer of Mississippi WMU.

O'Brien is the executive director/treasurer of the Southern Baptist WMU headquartered in Birmingham.

Blackaby, co-author of the best-selling book, "Experiencing God," is the director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the North American Mission Board in Atlanta.

Myers, a native Mississippian and for-

mer missionary to Vietnam, is vice president for "World A" Strategies for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Rebecca Williams of Gautier, president of Mississippi WMU, will preside over all sessions. She will be assisted by vice-president Roberta Johnston of Brookhaven and secretary Kay Hodge of Hernando.

Music will be led by Nedra Carter of Hattiesburg.

Patterson indicated the Monday afternoon session will be set aside to give special recognition to pastors and directors of missions in Mississippi.

There will also be a special session for members and leaders of Girls in Action (GAs). GAs will enjoy missionary speakers, games, and pizza.

In addition, the girls will rehearse music which they will sing during the Monday evening session. Music will be available to GA leaders prior to the meeting.

Missionaries from both mission boards will be present during the two-day event, according to Patterson.

Special recognition will be given to the parents of Mississippi missionaries.

Former WMU Executive Board members will have a fellowship breakfast on Tuesday morning. All those present who have participated on volunteer projects will be recognized.

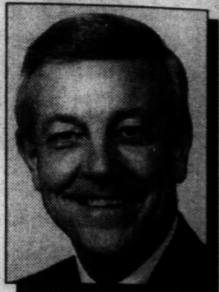
For more information, contact Mississippi WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



O'Brien



Blackaby



Myers

WMU Bylaw Change Proposed

In the annual meeting of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Hattiesburg on March 16-17, WMU will vote on a proposed change in Article VIII, Section 3 of the Bylaws, adding the words "executive director" and making the bylaw read:

"Special meetings may be called by the president, executive director, or shall be called at the request of at least one-third of the voting members of the Executive Board."

For more information, contact WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

'Hardball' won NIV dispute, mag publisher suggests

WYNEWOOD, Pa. (ABP) — Last spring's spat over a "gender-accurate" Bible translation indicates that "economic hardball" has triumphed in the realm of theological debate, claims progressive evangelical Ron Sider.

The International Bible Society (IBS) and Zondervan Publishing House changed plans for a new New International Version (NIV) Bible translation in May, after controversy erupted over proposed "gender-accurate" revisions.

Sider, a prominent evangelical figure and publisher of Prism magazine, has written an open

letter on the topic. The letter is published in the January/February issue of Prism, the bimonthly magazine of Evangelicals for Social Action. Sider's letter is addressed to James Dobson, World magazine, signers of the "Colorado Springs Guidelines," IBS and Zondervan.

Last spring, World magazine published a story claiming IBS and Zondervan were preparing to publish a "unisex" version of the NIV translation.

The story set off a loud protest among conservative evangelicals, including several leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Both Zondervan and IBS criticized the World magazine articles about changes in the NIV as hostile and inaccurate. The Evangelical Press Association investigated an ethics complaint against the magazine but later declined to render judgment after a failed mediation attempt.

Other evangelical figures, meanwhile, including James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, and Baptist seminary presidents Paige Patterson and Albert Mohler, echoed positions expressed in the World magazine articles.

Officials with the Southern

Baptist Sunday School Board held private meetings with Zondervan and IBS leaders, amid strong hints that the Sunday School Board might stop using the NIV in its publications.

As criticism of the proposed new NIV translation mounted, IBS and Zondervan announced they were dropping all plans for the revised NIV.

"That two of evangelicalism's most respected and influential agencies (IBS and Zondervan) would allow an ad hoc, one-sided (though admittedly powerful) group to dictate their publishing decisions is extremely disturbing — indeed, potentially disastrous for the future of evangelicalism," Sider wrote.

"It is disturbing because it represents the triumph of economic hardball in the realm of theological debate," he added. "And it is disturbing for its immense lack of grace."

Sider criticized IBS and Zondervan for reversing their decision to publish the "gender-accurate" NIV version in response to economic and ideological pressures.

"How could the IBS reverse its decision ... without widespread consultation with the full range of evangelical scholars and without allowing the NIV Committee on Bible Translation input regarding the most accurate translations?"

"After all, wasn't the Committee on Bible Translation designed precisely to insulate the process from ideological pressure of any sort?"

Sider challenged Patterson's role in the issue, citing an article he wrote for the May issue of Jerry Falwell's National Liberty Journal.

In that article, Patterson attacked Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago as an example of a church infected with the same type of "feminist ideology" he said was driving the new NIV.

Elliff names Faith & Message committee

DEL CITY, Okla. (BP) — A seven-member committee to recommend a possible family article addition to the Baptist Faith and Message document has been named,

according to Tom Elliff, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.

Elliff named the committee in response to action by the SBC annual meeting in Dallas last year. Charles Lawson, a messenger from Maryland, requested the convention president name a committee to recommend adding an article to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message dealing with "The Family."

Lawson asked for an amendment to be brought to the 1998 meeting in Salt Lake City, the 35th anniversary of the passage of the widely-accepted document on Baptist beliefs.

In his motion, Lawson suggested adding "Article XVIII. The Family." Citing Gen. 2:24, he suggested additions regarding the roles of the husband, wife, and children.

Elliff said he tried to understand, "that while the Baptist Faith and Message is not a creed, it is an extremely important document to Southern Baptists."

"We make additions only with prayerful consideration and study. I have chosen a committee that represents a broad spectrum of Baptist life. They are pastors, state executive directors, agency head, and wives — they include those who have a keen grasp of the Scriptures and illustrate in their lives a clear understanding of God's principles regarding the family."

Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, was named chairman by Elliff. Other members are:

— O.D. "Damon" Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Church, Houston.

— Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, SBC.

— Mary Mohler, Louisville, Ky.

— Bill Elliff, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, Ark.

— John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

— Dorothy Patterson, Wake Forest, N.C.

Mohler is the wife of R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Seminary and Patterson is the wife of Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary.

Patterson to be nominated for SBC presidential post

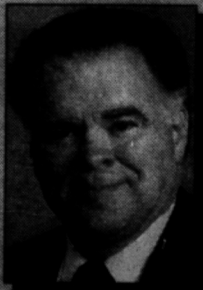
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, will be nominated for election to the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) when messengers meet this summer in Salt Lake City.

James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga., and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, announced Feb. 3 his intention to nominate Patterson, 55, for the SBC presidency during "The 12th Pastors' School and Bible Conference" held at First Church, Jacksonville, Fla. Patterson becomes the only announced candidate to succeed

Tom Elliff, Oklahoma pastor, will conclude two one-year terms as president at the Salt Lake City annual meeting.

Patterson said before allowing Merritt to nominate him for the SBC presidency, he had to first determine whether his possible election would create any conflicts of interest with his position as seminary president.

Before coming to Southeastern, Patterson, a native Texan, served as president of The Criswell College and associate pastor of First Church in Dallas for 17 years. Before going to Dallas, Patterson served churches in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.



Patterson

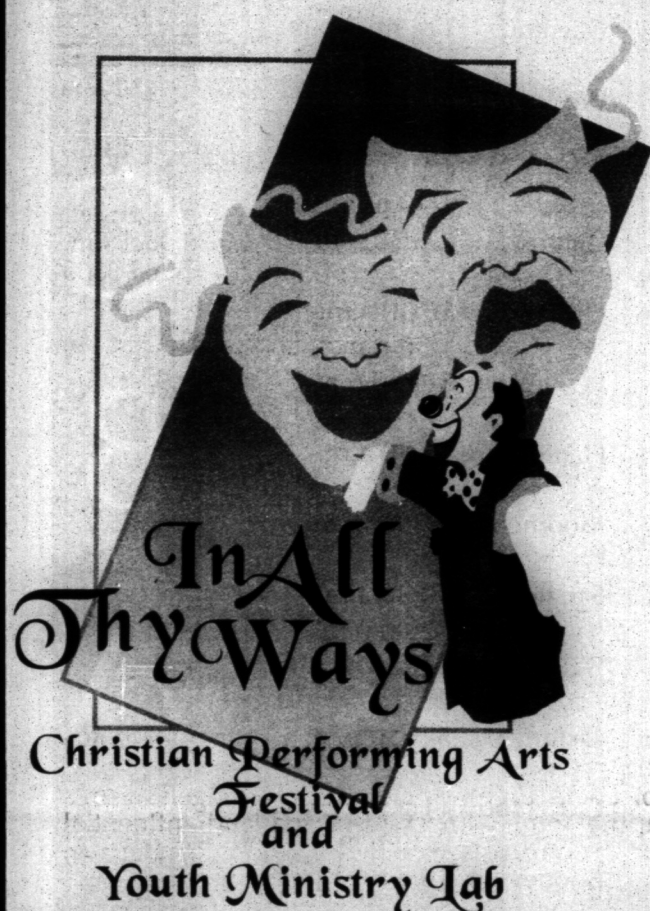
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 12, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



March 27-28, 1998, First Baptist Church, Richland



Special Guest Speaker Barry St. Clair

Barry, founder and executive director of Reach Out Ministries, has a passion for motivating students to live their lives for Christ and share Christ with their friends.

Special Guest: "Face to Face" drama group

This year there will be a special Youth Ministry Lab for all youth leaders and youth ministers during the festival. The brochure with conference descriptions and registration information will be out soon.

Please call the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651 to be put on the mailing list.

Mississippi Baptist CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

February 19-20, 1998
Alta Woods Baptist Church
Jackson

Registration 10:00 a.m.
Conference 1:00 p.m.

Bob Jones
Minister of Music

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

Derric Johnson
Clinician
Composer/Arranger
Sherwood, Oreg.



Bruce Greer
Pianist
Composer/Arranger
Flower Mound, Tex.



The Mississippi Singing
Churchmen
will be presented in concert
Thursday evening, Feb. 19
at 7:15 p.m.

1998 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

Name _____
Mailing address _____
Church or Institution _____
Position you hold _____

I am enclosing my annual dues of:

☐ \$15 Regular Member

☐ \$17.50 Husband/Wife

☐ \$5 Associate Member

☐ \$3 Student

I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ lunch reservations (Thursday) at \$3 each.

I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ banquet reservations (Thursday) at \$8 each.

\$_____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ Number of years of continuous service in

Mississippi

Checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference

Mail form and check to: Bob Chichester

Bay Vista Baptist Church, 2485 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS 39531

SUMMER STAFFERS SOUGHT BY CENTRAL HILLS AND GULFSHORE

Central Hills Baptist Retreat and Gulfshore Baptist Assembly are accepting applications for employment for the 1998 Summer Camp Staff. The camp sessions at Central Hills are provided for all boys and young men, including Royal Ambassadors & Challengers, ages 6-17. College age applicants who are interested are encouraged to consider this avenue of ministry and service.

Staff orientation at Central Hills will begin May 24 and conclude June 5, 1998. Lifeguard training for a select group of staff will begin on June 5. Camp sessions will begin June 15. There will be six weeks of Resident Camp for boys in grades 4-12. The week of July 6-10 will be a "week off" for the staff. There will be two Lad/Dad Weekend Camps for boys in grades 1-3 and their dads. Each Resident Camp Session will accommodate 170 campers. Each Lad/Dad Session will accommodate 100 campers. We hope for a total registration of 1,250.

Available positions include counselor, operations worker, and activity instructor. Activity instructor positions are: horseback riding, archery, riflery, handicrafts, camp craft skills, swimming in a junior olympic pool, canoeing on a 16 acre lake, and a low-elements adventure/challenge ropes course.

The staff will begin each week on Sunday evening and conclude the week either on Friday afternoon or Saturday afternoon, depending on the sessions offered during that week.

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly begins its summer program May 16, and continues until August 8. The Gulfshore schedule features Senior Adult, Single, Youth, Music, Family, and Adult Leadership Conferences. It is hoped that the attendance for 1998 will be the largest ever.

The assembly provides an interesting program of activities for the staff and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development. It provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people from various places in Mississippi and to develop meaningful and personal friendships with them. Available positions include food services, Red Cross-trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Dan West, camp director at Central Hills, or Frank Simmons,

Gulfshore Assembly manager, at a series of interviews to be held on various college campuses across Mississippi from February 16 to March 4, where they will be interviewing prospective employees. The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Date	Place	City	Time
Feb. 16	E. Central Community College BSU Center	Decatur	11 a.m.-1 p.m.
	Co-Lin Comm. College BSU Center	Wesson	3-5 p.m.
Feb. 17	Hinds Comm. College BSU Center	Raymond	10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
	Miss. College Rogers Student Center	Clinton	2-6:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Jones Co. Junior College BSU Center	Ellisville	10:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
	Gulf Coast Perkinson Campus BSU	Perkinson	3-4:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	USM BSU Center	Hattiesburg	10:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Feb. 23	Miss. Delta Comm. College BSU Center	Moorhead	2:30-5 p.m.
Feb. 24	Northwest Miss. Comm. College BSU Center	Senatobia	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
	Blue Mt. College BSU Center	Blue Mt.	2-3:30 p.m.
	University of Mississippi BSU Center	Oxford	5-7:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Delta State University BSU Center	Cleveland	11 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	Northeast Miss. Comm. BSU Center	Booneville	10 a.m.-1 p.m.
	MSU BSU Center	Starkville	3-7 p.m.
March 3	William Carey College Lawrence Hall	Hattiesburg	11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
March 4	Gulf Coast Jefferson-Davis BSU Center	Gulfport	11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Every Mother and Daughter Needs Some Time Together!



Registration Form GA Mother/Daughter Overnight (grades 1-6) - Camp Garaywa March 20-21, 1998

Cost: \$23 per person

Deadline: Monday, March 16, 1998

Begins Friday at 5 p.m. and ends Saturday at noon.

Mother's Name _____ Daughter's Name _____
 Address _____ Phone Number _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 In case of emergency contact/phone number _____ / _____
 Church Name _____ Association _____
 Amount Enclosed: \$23 x No. of persons _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
 Mail to: WMU GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Divorce/Single Parenting Conferences and Retreats

Divorce Retreat, March 13-14, Camp
Wesley Pines, Gallman
Call Dot Day at 601-894-5338 for more
information.

Divorce/Single Parent Conference
March 30, Emmanuel, Grenada
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Led by Jim Doremus, minister with sin-
gles, FBC, Jackson
Call 601-226-5316

Single Adult Retreat, Memorial Day
Weekend, May 23-25
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Saturday, June 27, Parkway BC, Clinton,
8:00-8:45 p.m.

Divorce Conference, led by Jim
Doremus,
minister with singles, FBC, Jackson
Single Parenting Conference, led by
James Haynes, minister with singles,
FBC, Biloxi

Family Week, July 4-8, Gulfshore Baptist
Assembly

Single Parenting, led by James Haynes

Call Glenn Shows, singles consultant at
1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson
for more information on these conferences
and retreats.

Don't Miss Out On This Special Opportunity to Make Some Wonderful Memories!



Registration Form

GA Father/Daughter Overnight – Camp Garaywa

April 17-18, 1998

Cost: \$23 per person

Deadline: Monday, April 13, 1998

Begins Friday at 5 p.m. and ends Saturday at noon.

Father's Name _____ Daughter's Name _____
Address _____ Phone Number _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
In case of emergency contact/phone number _____/
Church Name _____ Association _____
Amount Enclosed: \$23 x No. of persons _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mail to: WMU GA Father/Daughter Overnight, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Youth Bible Study Forum

Saturday, February 28, 1998
FBC, Gulfport
8:30-11:30 a.m.

This unique Forum will provide an opportunity for the youth in our churches to share what's on their minds about Sunday School. We want to hear what they consider to be the strengths, weaknesses, needs, etc., of youth Sunday School today. Representatives from the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville will be on hand to participate in these discussions. Each church is invited to bring four youth. We hope you will bring a mixture of older youth and younger youth, and a mixture of male and female. Also, we ask that you include two active youth and two who are only "fringely" active. Why only four, you may ask? That's a good question! The purpose of the Forum is to generate meaningful, honest, open, and "serious" discussion. The smaller the number, we feel, the easier this will be to accomplish. There is no charge to participate in the Forum. However, we do ask that you register with the Sunday School Department in advance. Call Mark Lott at 1-800-748-1651 to get more information or to pre-register.

Pray this day for...

February 13-26, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

Do You Pray?

"To be prayerless is to be without God. without Christ. without grace. without hope. and without heaven. It is to be on the road to hell...a habit of prayer is one of the surest marks of a Christian."

- A Call to Prayer by J.C. Ryle

For Baptist Seminaries, College, Schools (SBC Emphasis). A few years ago a Gallup Poll suggested that 2.5% of the population in Scotland might be born-again Christians. The prayer movement with the churches at the grass roots is one of the signs of hope. Pray for the encouragement of Scotland.

Volunteers in Missions Day (Brotherhood Emphasis). Continue praying for missionaries Steve and Debbie McCord in Southeast Asia and Oceania. It was discovered during surgery that Debbie's cancer is more serious than had been thought.

For Mississippi River Ministries Conference, Camp Garaywa, sponsored by the Witness Team. Give thanks for God's protection of missionaries Viola and Jim Palmer in Nicaragua during a recent robbery of their home in the middle of the night.

All churches in Cambodia are being required to register with the government. Pray for the more than 100 Baptist churches in Cambodia as they seek to fulfill the requirements for registration.

Pray for the evangelistic outreach of new programs and stations that have been added to the radio ministry of Mass-Media in the Philippines. These include a new children's program which tells the stories of the Bible in chronological order.

A converted Buddhist monk is studying in a Bible school in India. Pray that he will become more fluent in English in order to make the greatest use of his studies, and pray that he will be encouraged and strengthened in that task.

Pray that God will break through the minds of the most ardent Muslim believers and give them His desires for His world. Ask God to show you how to pray for those who take credit for violent acts.

Thank God for the good working relationships existing between the convention and missionaries in Brazil through the years. Pray for approximately 900,000 Baptists in a country of almost 160 million people, where just slightly over 11% claim to be evangelical Christians.

For Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference, Alta Woods BC, Jackson, sponsored by the Church Music Department.

For Director of Missions Program Interpretation, Camp Garaywa, sponsored by Missions Extension and Associational Administration. Pray that the Lord will provide a tribal agriculturist in the Philippines to work with Baptist representative Brad Eivens.

Missionaries Kelly and Jeanne Manire recently joined Faith Baptist Church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Only 30 people attend worship services at this church which once was filled. Please pray for the many churches in Canada that are struggling to survive.

For Mississippi Singing Churchmen, Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond, sponsored by the Church Music Dept. For the State Marriage Enrichment Seminar, Broadmoor BC, Jackson, sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry.

For Church Weekday Education Clinic, William Carey College, sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. Baptist representatives involved in the sports ministry at Gaza/West Bank asked us to pray that they will find a receptive, open and receiving spirit when they visit in players' homes.

For GA/Acteens Campus Day, Mississippi College, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union. Pray that the Spirit of God will bring a biblical sense of brotherhood and a godly unity of purpose among Jewish believers.

APRIL

3-89 MISS ALICIA RACEY

c/o Rev. Mark Andrews, Casilla 3388, Santiago, CHILE
Parents: Michael & Annette, General Evangelism

4-83 MISS JENNIFER L. JOHNSTON

First Baptist Church, 425 Ford, Columbia, MS 39429
Parents: Vincent & Sharon, Conference/Encampment, SERVE IN BRAZIL

9-91 MR. JOHN M. CURTIS

B.P. 130, Tenkodogo, BURKINA FASO
Parents: Clifton & Cathy, Agriculture

15-81 MR. JOEL GLAZE AND MR. SETH GLAZE

Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Parents: David & Gloria, Media Promotion

17-80 MR. JACOB WALLACE

Apartado Aereo 51687, Bogota, COLOMBIA
Parents: Karl & Peggy, Mission Administration

19-80 MISS BETHANY PEVEY

118 Amberwood, Clinton, MS 39056
Parents: Frank, Jr. & Jerry Anne, Mission Administration, SERVE IN TANZANIA

21-81 MR. BENJAMIN STACY

C.P. 19507, 80230-970 Curitiba, PR, BRAZIL
Parents: Roger & Penelope, Church Starting

21-82 MR. JOEL COLLINS

c/o ACS Suriname, P. O. Box 02-5567, Miami, FL 33102-5567
Parents: Charles & Suzanne, General Evangelism

24-83 MR. JUSTIN A. MARTIN

Casilla de Correo 5, 8400 San Carlos de Bariloche, ARGENTINA
Parents: Asbury, Jr. & Hope, General Evangelism

24-90 MISS KIMBERLY CARLTON

Baptist Mission, P. O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: David & Pamela, Theological Education by Exten.

28-87 MISS REBEKAH LAUREN RAY

Box 5502, 340003 Donetsk-3, UKRAINE
Parents: Mike & Linda, Religious Education Promotion

29-93 MR. CHRISTOPHER CARLTON

Baptist Mission, P. O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: David & Pamela, Theological Education by Extension



Toward a Growing Marriage



...And they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

SEMINAR COST

	Individual	Engaged or Married Couple
Early Registration Fee:	\$35	\$65
Registration Fee:	\$45	\$75

REGISTRATION

Return registration form to your seminar coordinator or mail to: Chapman Seminars, Post Office Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203. For more information or to register call 800/254-2022.

Co-sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____
SPOUSE'S NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
DAYTIME PHONE _____
CHURCH GROUP _____
CIRCLE AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$65 FOR COUPLE \$35 FOR INDIVIDUAL
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

JUST FOR THE RECORD



GAs and one RA of New Hope Church, Oktibbeha County, visited the International Friendship house in Starkville and carried happy bags to the students. Pictured (front row, from left) are Kathryn Moore, Brittany Wilkinson, Sam Carmichael, Mallory Thompson, Kayla Jacobs; (back row) Morgan Armstrong, Karen Carmichael, Beth Wallace, and Mary Edna Carmichael, GA leader.



Arlington Church, Beaumont, recently dedicated a new education facility that consists of four classrooms, restrooms, and storage. The buildings was completed debt free through timber sales and special offerings. Pictured (from left) are Mahlon Lott, Kenneth Wells, Jeffrey Sylvester, Troy Hillman, Freddie Byrd, Larry Allen, chairman of the building committee, and Jimmy Collins, pastor. Not pictured, Sam Herring.

CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.

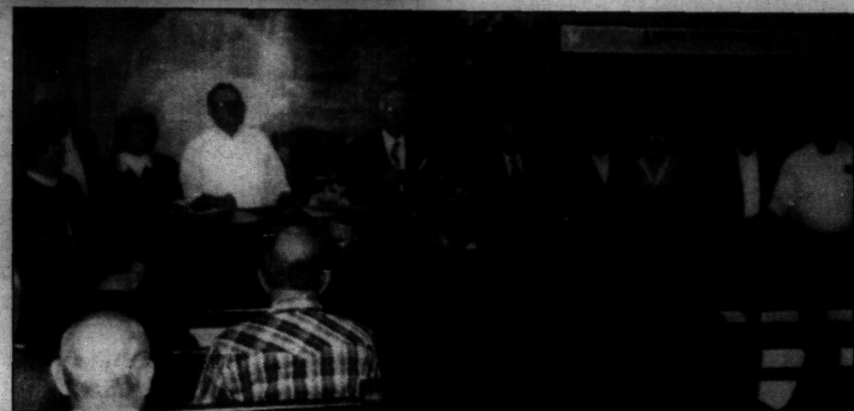


★ Cushions ★ Baptistries
★ Steeples ★ Renovation
★ Pews and Pulpit Furniture
(New and Used)
Wallace E. Foy

WATTS 1-800-898-0551
Jackson 957-3762

Bayou View Church, Gulfport, is having a church wide emphasis on True Love Waits every Sunday during Discipleship Training classes for the month of February. True Love Waits commitments from teenagers and True Love Endures commitments from parents will be recognized on Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. For more information, call Leisa Culpepper at (601) 865-8166.

The Liberated Wailing Wall, the musical group of Jews for Jesus, will be in concert at First Church, Poplarville, on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. Lyrics are taken from the Hebrew scriptures and the New Testament, reflecting their belief that Jesus is the Messiah. A love offering will be taken for the ministry of Jews for Jesus. For more information, call Bob Rogers, pastor, at (601) 795-4531.



Beech Springs Church, Union County, recently held a dedication service for its new fellowship hall which was paid in full at time of completion. Building committee (pictured from left) are Gary Pannell; Dwain Ard, pastor; and Mike McBrayer. Also, Mamie Easterling, the oldest member of the church is pictured. Committee member (not pictured) is Larry Easterling.



Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, recently held a note burning service. The entire church indebtedness of over \$80,000 has now been retired. Taking part in the service (from left) are Derryl Crawford; T. C. Mauney; Gary Kennedy, minister of music; Robert E. Walker, pastor; Freddie Corbin, chairman of deacons; Bobby Smart; and Enoch Stacy.

Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference will meet at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, on Feb. 19-20. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. with the conference beginning at 1 p.m. Program personalities include Bruce Greer, pianist, composer, songwriter; and Derric Johnson, musician, speaker, author, pastor, educator. The Mississippi Singing Churchmen will be in concert at 7:15 p.m., Feb. 19.



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Ethel Church, Ethel, recently held Dedication Services for its new fellowship hall. Building committee (pictured from left) are Steven Chandler; Nan Wheelless; Paul Joiner; Linda Simmons; Keith Dowden, pastor; and James Taylor. Not pictured is David Spears.

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Enon Church, Bay Springs, held a ribbon cutting for its new multi-purpose building on Nov. 23. The building is to be used for a fellowship hall, Sunday School rooms, and pastor study. Pictured (from left, standing) are Faye Lightsey; Joe Lightsey, deacon; Nell Stockman; George Stockman; A. R. Windham, pastor; Herman Sims, deacon; Grace Sims; Ruth Stockman; Lamar Stockman Jr.; Howard Tucker, deacon. The dedication message was brought by Wesley Miley.

Cancellations

The following meetings have been cancelled:

- Mississippi River Ministry Conference, February 16 at Camp Garaywa.
- Start Something New Conference, April 20 at Camp Garaywa.

For more information, contact Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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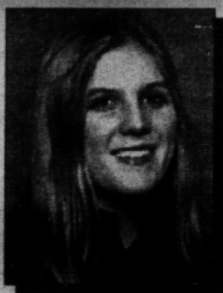
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Revival Dates

First, Fannin (Rankin): Feb. 22-25; 7 p.m.; Clark Stewart, Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, evangelist; John Wells, Crystal Springs, music; Leroy J. Brewer Jr., pastor.

Hollandale, Hollandale: Feb. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ed Deuschle, consultant, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Riley Harper, Emmanuel Church, Greenville, music.

Erika Scrimshire, daughter of Eric and Mary Scrimshire, has accepted the nomination from her pastor, Cary Worthington, and her church, West Laurel, Laurel, to attend the fifth annual Christian Youth Leadership Conference. She will travel to Ma'aleh Adumim, Israel, March 15-24. While there,



she will attend a reception being given by Israel's mayor and parliament. Scrimshire is a sophomore at West Jones High School in Jones County.

Steve Smith, evangelist, is available for pulpit supply, revivals, and youth revivals. He can be reached at (601) 372-9641 or 881-9292 (pager).

George Harrison, associate pastor emeritus at Handsboro Church, Gulfport, was honored Nov. 23 on the occasion of his 50th anniversary in the ministry.



Ethel Church, Ethel, recently held a Deacon Ordination Service. Pictured (from left) are Gene Irving; Keith Dowden, pastor; James Tavior; and Gordon Bell.

LOTTIE MOON GOALS REACHED



West Heights Church, Pontotoc, set a goal of \$15,000 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Acteens standing beside the tree are (from left) Corrie Vitalis, Megan McKinney, Katherine Waldrop, Rachel Sforzine, and Maggie Long. Each star on the tree, made by Acteens, represents \$200 toward the goal.

Southside Church, Lucedale, exceeded its goal of \$1,997 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. In one day the church raised \$1,353.25 by conducting a bike-a-thon. Instead of mailing out Christmas cards to one another, the WMU set up a mail box for cards and asked the members to place the cards in it along with a check for the postage needed to mail the cards. The postage money went to Lottie Moon and WMU delivered the cards. The total amount received was \$2,785.35 through offerings and several other projects.

Faith Church, West Point, had a church goal of \$1,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The total received was \$1,112.10.

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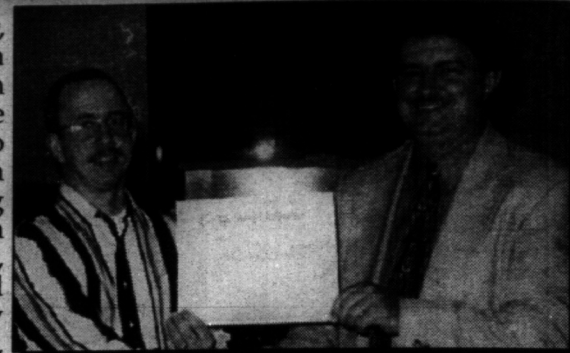
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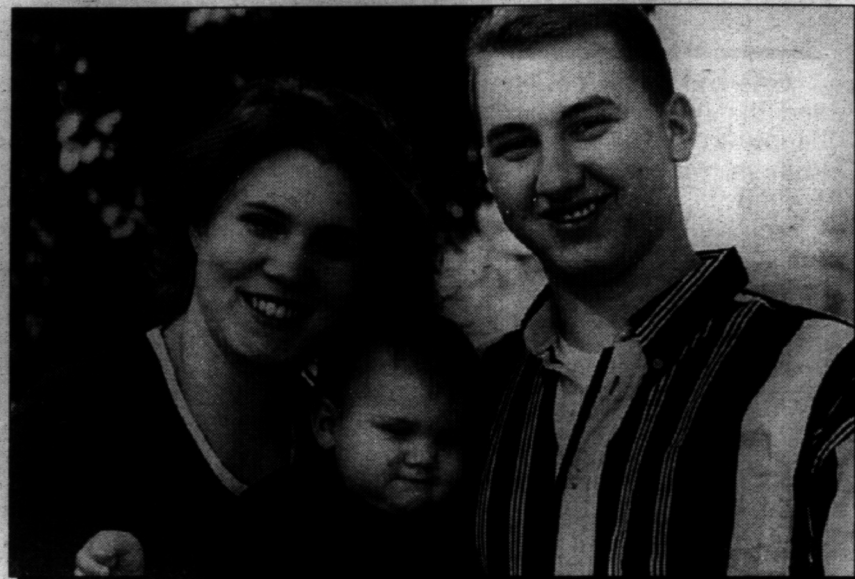
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NAMES IN THE NEWS

Greg Thomas, pastor, presented him with a plaque of recognition for 50 years in the ministry. He was also presented a collection of letters. During these years Harrison has been a pastor, professor of Old Testament at New Orleans Seminary, and has served over 50 churches as interim pastor.



Mt. Moriah Church, Ripley, recently held ordination services for **Bob Wiekell**. Pictured are Wiekell, youth director; and Titus Tyer, pastor.



William Bouchillon was ordained to the ministry Dec. 7 at Hopewell Church, Choctaw County. Bouchillon has been called full time to Clear Springs Church, Choctaw County. Pictured are Bouchillon, wife Dawn, and daughter Lauren.

STAFF CHANGES

Corinth Church, Heidelberg, has called **James "Ralph" Smith**, formerly of First Church, Jemison, Ala., as pastor.

Parkway Church, Tupelo, has called **Len Sullivan** as pastor effective Feb. 9. A native of Tupelo, Sullivan received his education at Blue Mountain College, Golden Gate Seminary, and Mid America Seminary. His previ-

ous place of service was Kirkville Church.

MS Positions Available

PART-TIME OR BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH: Walnut Grove Baptist Church. Send resume and cover letter to Youth Council, Walnut Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 363, Walnut Grove, MS 39189.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC for Adult and Youth Choirs. Send resumes to Ronnie Clark, Ruleville Baptist Church, PO Box 187, Ruleville, MS 38771.

PASTOR: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MCLAIN. Send resumes to Mr. Kelcey Lee, Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 69, McLain, MS 39456.

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ONE SOVEREIGN GOD

Editor:

I enjoyed Thomas Atwood's guest opinion in the Jan. 22 Baptist Record on Calvinism vs. Arminianism, but I would like to offer three observations.

First, his statement that if the issues "were as clear as their proponents insist, then everyone would see them alike" seems a bit hyperbolic.

The deity of Christ is plain, but the Arians rejected it. The two natures of Christ in one person is clear, but ask the Jehovah Witnesses if they believe Jesus is God.

Second, I think most Southern Baptists are two-point Calvinists, i.e. they believe in total depravity (sin affected the whole person) and persever-

ance of the saints (security of the believer); and could be three-pointers, the third point being unconditional election (God shows grace to whom he will, and man can do nothing to deserve this grace). The debate seems focused on irresistible grace and limited atonement.

Third, I suspect many of us bring our presuppositions to the Bible and there try to prove them. One of these is free will. Nowhere can I find the Bible says man's will is free, apart from Christ.

No! We cry freedom but find none. We wish to be autonomous but are enslaved by our own passions.

There is only one sovereign, God. Whether we like it or not, he is even sovereign in the act of salvation.

Even Christians, with the Spirit of Christ, if we are honest, must admit times when those passions controlled us.

Larry Smith
Sardis

THANKS FOR ANNIE

Editor:

I want to personally thank you for your support and encouragement of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Having served on a state staff and now for a number of years on the national mission agency staff, I know what your support means.

The postings through December 31, 1997, report a record offering of \$41,178,815 (not audited). This is an increase of \$1,670,376 or 4% over 1996. We praise the Lord for the stewardship and generosity of Southern Baptists.

Let me assure you of my prayers and every best wish for ministry in 1998. Remember us in your prayers and please express our appreciation for the record Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Ernest J. Kelley
Vice President for Business
N. American Mission Board
Atlanta, Ga.

LEARNING TO USE WINGS

Editor:

Although what I'm about to say may be a nightmare to those souls who are unusually skittish about talking religion, I am recommending to anyone whose eyes fall on this writing a certain passage in Isaiah that struck my attention a week or so ago.

Isaiah 40:31(NIV): "... but those who hide in the Lord will renew their strength. They will

soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Now, I use this moment to caution those readers who take things literally not to jump off any rooftops to test their wings, for much of the Bible speaks poetically and Isaiah is referring to the wings of an eagle to indicate the spiritual and mental freedom God's people will have if they choose and keep on choosing to mature.

The mature Christian, even if his legs have been amputated and he'll never walk, can "run and not grow weary."

Real freedom is more in the mind than in outside circumstances.

So I say that the person who has been conditioned to control what his mind stays on can, if he uses his talent to search for significant truth and casts aside intrusive and irrelevant thoughts, be free to run or fly in his inner being.

Such freedom doesn't come automatically — even an eagle must learn to use his wings.

Donald R. James
Plaquemine, La.

END DEATH PENALTY

Editor:

In 1950 I presented a massive petition to the U.S. Congress for the abolition of capital punishment which became House Joint Resolution 18.

The states that have no capital punishment laws have seen no increase in violent crimes as a national average. Capital punishment has no place in modern society.

Every reader should ask their state legislators to abolish capital punishment.

Arlo McReynolds
Baldwyn

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College School of Law will celebrate the first annual National Minority Law Recruitment Month with a Minority Pre-Law Day on Feb. 20 beginning at 10 a.m. This program is open to minority students who wish to find out more about law school. National

Minority Law Recruitment Month is part of a new campaign funded by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) to raise awareness of minority recruiting issues facing law schools. For more information call the Admissions Office at (601) 925-7150.

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Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Pleasant Valley Quartet Fellowship Church, from Merit Community will be Mendenhall. A love offering featured Feb. 14, 6 p.m., at will be taken.



Tate Church, Corinth, held a note burning ceremony on Nov. 30. The church had a ten year note, but the goal was to pay it off in five years. Pictured (from left) are Richard Tenhet, chairman of building committee; Ray Tull, trustee; Clyde Plaxico, trustee; and Bill Williams, financial chairman.

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Beloved NOBTS fixture loses cancer battle

CARRIERE, Miss. (BP) — Billy Kenneth Smith, 69, died quietly in his sleep Jan. 29 at his home in Carriere, after a two-year struggle with cancer.

Smith was part of the New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) family for 43 years, most recently serving as interim president.

A student at New Orleans Seminary from 1953-63, Smith completed both the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees, specializing in Old Testament and Hebrew.

Smith was pastor of First Church in Alvin, Texas, 1971-75, when he was called by his alma mater to become a professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

He was chairman of the division of biblical studies for many years, then was named

vice president for academic affairs in 1992. The same year, he was named provost and academic dean of graduate faculty.

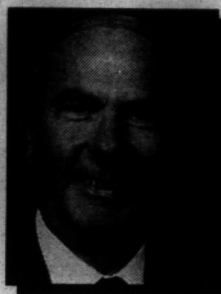
Funeral services were held Sunday, Feb. 1 at First Church, Picayune.

The seminary has set Feb. 27 for a campus memorial service. The service will be held at 10 a.m. in the Roland Q. Leavell Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to be made to scholarship funds in

memory of Smith. The family has established funds at New Orleans Seminary and First Church, Picayune.

Anyone who would like to contribute to this fund may do so by contacting the Office of Development, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126-4858; or First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 477, Picayune, MS 39466. For more information call 1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 3252.



Smith

The Road to Everlasting Life



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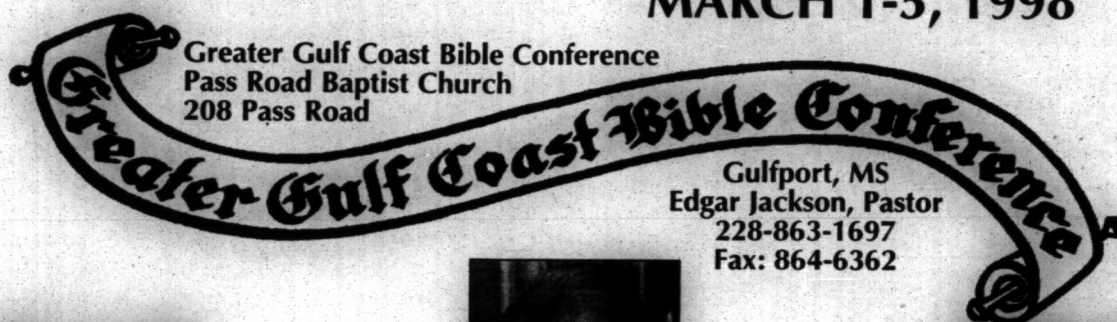
Admit that you are a sinner.
There is none righteous, not even one. (Rom. 3:10)

Accept God's love for you.
God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8)

Acknowledge Christ as Lord.
If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

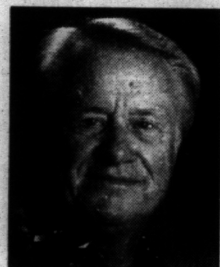
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

INTRODUCING THE 7TH ANNUAL MARCH 1-5, 1998



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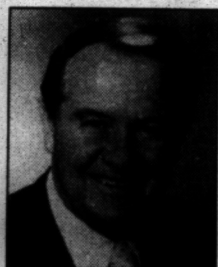
Jack Taylor
Roswell, GA



Edgar Jackson
Conference Director



Bobby McClellan
Assistant Conference Director



Doug White
Euless, TX



Wade Trimmer
Augusta, GA

Dear Friend,
I'm so happy to personally invite Pastors, Staff Members, and Lay People to Gulfport, MS for the 7TH ANNUAL GREATER GULF COAST BIBLE CONFERENCE... March 1-5, 1998.

Pastors, this will be a great time for you, your wife, and your leadership to draw together with other great men of God in WORD, WORSHIP, AND PRAISE. As we unite our hearts together, times of refreshing, renewing, restoring, and reviving will come from the Spirit of God.

We will have some of the most anointed speakers and worship leaders available to the church today. Our most humble prayer is that our Most Holy Lord will use this conference to absolutely and forever change the life of every saint who comes.

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Edgar Jackson, Pastor



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1 Corinthians 12:31b; 13

By Don Lum

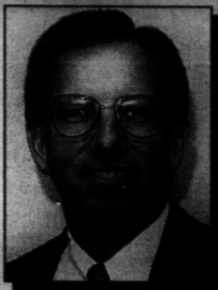
"What the world needs now is love." The words of this old song are true. Love is something everyone needs and wants. In this passage of scripture, Paul describes a wonderful, unselfish quality that we all would like to have shown to us. He calls it "love." It is a kind of love that is Christ-like and is a character quality that all followers of Jesus should show.

As you read the characteristics of this type of love, think about how the world would be if everyone responded always with this kind of love. Well, the world will never be like that, but the church should be. Jesus said that the way the world would know we are

his followers is by the love we have for each other as Christians. (John 13:35). As we examine Paul's

words, look at your life and think about how much this kind of love describes you. Do we fail to make an impact on our corner of the world? Is it because we don't allow Christ's love to flow through us?

Principles of Love (12:31b). Paul had just finished a section describing special gifts God gives his children to make the body of Christ complete. Everyone has a part to play in God's work, but none of us have all the gifts Paul has listed. But there is something that all of us have and God wants to use this



Lum

quality in every believer to work in the world. We all have LOVE because we have God's spirit in us and God is love. (Read I John 4:7-8). Paul says we should desire the best gifts so we can better serve God, but there is something more important to remember.

Priority of Love (13:1-3). Paul names three of the special gifts: tongues, prophecy, and helps. He says that you may have these gifts and use them in a great way, but if you don't love the people you minister to, it is of no affect for God's kingdom. There is an old saying, "People don't care how much you know till they know how much you care." People all around us are waiting for the kind of unconditional love that Paul describes here. God has put in us this love to give. It must break his heart as he sees all the chances we miss to

show people what he is like because of our selfishness and disobedience.

Remember Jesus said the commandments in a nutshell were to love God and love our neighbor. Let's look closely at what this love really is.

Practice of Love (13:4-7). These four verses describe a kind of love that the world cannot know apart from God. That is why he leaves us here to represent him. He wants to love them through us. Too many times we respond the "natural" way instead of the "supernatural" way. We settle for less than our best and don't let God show through. It will require our denying self and consciously choosing to love. When we do this, God in us is patient, he is kind, he does not envy, he does not boast, he is not proud, he is not rude, he is not self-seeking, he is not easily angered, he keeps no record of wrongs, he does not delight in

evil but rejoices with the truth, he always protects, he always trusts, he always hopes, and he always perseveres.

Galatians 2:20 says "it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me and the life I live in the flesh I live by faith." This is not an impossible life, but it is the life God planned for us. I can let him love like this through me. IT IS MY CHOICE.

Permanence of Love (13:8-13). Love never fails. In heaven we won't need prophecy, faith, or hope but love will be there. What a wonderful thought and how much do we miss here on earth because we fail to show the kind of love that could encourage and meet needs like nothing else we can do for people.

This Valentine's week, make a new commitment to let the supernatural love of God be seen in your life every moment of every day!

Lum is a consultant in the Miss. Baptist Evangelism Dept.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

A family reunion

Genesis 45:1-11

By Edna Martin Ellison

If anyone had a right to hold a grudge, Joseph did! His brothers had treated him unmercifully, throwing him into a cistern, then selling him into slavery, never expecting to see him again. Yet he responded in forgiveness. In Genesis 42 his brothers arrived in Egypt asking for food. Though they did not recognize him (as a younger brother, he had grown up and changed), he recognized them. Accusing them of espionage, he questioned them about their family back in Canaan and put them in prison. They assumed God was punishing them for their past sins. After three days in prison, he released them, holding Simeon

hostage so they would return with their youngest brother, Benjamin. Imagine their surprise on the way home when they found the money returned to them in their sacks!

Returning home, Jacob refused to let them take Benjamin. However, after a year's lean supplies, they were forced to return for food to survive and they took Benjamin with them. To test their love for each other, this time Joseph placed his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. His servant overtook them and accused Benjamin of theft. Proving they had learned the meaning of family and unselfishness, Judah offered his life in place of



Ellison

Benjamin's. Sadly they returned to stand before Joseph.

I Am Your Brother (45:1-4). Joseph asked everyone to leave the room except his brothers. Then he revealed his true identity. He was overcome with emotion and wept aloud, so that all Pharaoh's household

heard (vv. 1-2). Then he inquired about his father (v. 3).

The brothers were stunned. They could not even answer Joseph (v. 3b). To convince them, he asked them to step closer. He repeated, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt" (v. 4).

God Sent Me (45:5-8). What a forgiving brother Joseph was! He said, "Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life" (v. 5). Instead of lashing out in anger, Joseph saw God's providence in his being in the

"right place at the right time." If he had lived in Canaan, they all may have starved to death. Instead, he was in a position to save their lives and bless them. He explained that five more years of famine lay ahead; yet God had provided a way to keep them alive (v. 6-7). Again he repeated that God, not he, was the one who had elevated him as ruler (v. 8).

You Shall Be Near Me (45:9-11). Joseph then invited them to bring Jacob to live in Egypt (in the land of Goshen) to be near Joseph (vv. 9-10). Joseph offered to provide food for all the family, including their livestock. He promised again to take care of them in the coming famine (v. 11).

Questions to Consider:

1. Do you, like Joseph, yearn for good communication with your family? Are you separated by miles or by misunderstanding? Perhaps now is the time for a reunion. Joseph was the one mistreated, yet he made the first step toward reconciliation. Even

though it may have been hard, he forgave them and offered to share what he had with them. What could you give to your family to reunite them? Perhaps it's not a sack of grain, but an antique table, a family Bible, or a visit with humility. How about giving them the one thing you cherish the most? Do it today, as God leads you.

Did you think Joseph was bragging when he said, (paraphrased) "Tell Daddy to hurry here!"

Look at me! God has made me lord of all Egypt!" (v. 9)? How can you avoid bragging about your blessings before your relatives who are less fortunate?

3. Today's lesson is a perfect contrast of human mishandling of a situation and God's perfect solution. Can you trust his will through adverse circumstances? Take time now to thank him for his provision.

Ellison is a consultant in the Miss. Woman's Missionary Union.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Preparing for the future

2 Peter 3:1-13

By Debbie Sills

As I watched various segments of the Olympics this week, I marveled at the amount of practice and training these athletes put in each day. Many of them practice as much as ten hours a day, in addition to their other studies and responsibilities. They repeat a difficult move over and over again until they get it right. There is an old saying — practice makes perfect — and practice is nothing more than repetition. How true this is, but do you realize it applies to learning as well? Peter realized repetition was the key to learning and holding on to the teachings regarding Christ's second coming.

Wake Up (3:1-2).

Peter begins chapter three by admitting this is his second letter to them. This is very significant. Perhaps many times we are too desirous of novelty and too eager to come up with new things to say. What is actually needed is a repetition of the eternal truths that are so quickly forgotten. Peter's goal was to remind his readers again of the importance of God's instructions spoken through his words and the words of the prophets. Peter believed in repetition. He did not base his repetitiveness on the ignorance of his readers, but on his belief that these Christian



Sills

truths were significant enough to be heard over and over again. We tend to forget what the Bible teaches about the end times. That is why it is so important for us to be reminded about such things.

Wise Up (3:3-9).

Peter recognizes his readers were aware of some things that would take place upon the second coming of Christ. His main concern was with people who scoffed at the idea of Jesus coming again. They believed the world was going to be the same as it had been since the beginning of creation.

There are many today who do not believe Jesus is coming again. They believe the same way as some did in Peter's day—the delay of his second coming has been so long that it is safe to assume the second

coming is not going to happen at all. We should take note of Peter's response.

First of all, the world has not been the same since creation. God did bring judgement on the world and destroyed it during Noah's day. He saved Noah and his family, and the animals of the earth, but the rest of the world was destroyed because of their ungodliness by forty days of rain. These verses remind us that our world was once destroyed by water, and that a second destruction, this time by fire, is on the way.

He also reminded his readers time is as God sees it and is not the same as how our eyes see it. To him a thousand years is a day and a day is a thousand years. However, God's apparent delay to act is not procrastination. It is mercy — mercy for those who need another chance to repent and find salvation.

Stand Up (3:10-13).

Many people live their lives only for the here and now. They are not concerned with the consequences of their actions, and they even doubt the reality of a life hereafter. Believers know the truth about Jesus' second coming. He IS coming again and we will answer for our actions. It is difficult to be a strong Christian in our society. To avoid ridicule and humiliation, some often suppress the calling of God to stand for what they believe is right. We must stand up for our Christian beliefs. What other people think of us is not important compared to what Christ thinks of us. Our lives should reflect Jesus in everything we do. Time is short for us, and Christ is coming again. We must live a godly life and share him with others while we have the chance.

Sills is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

Analysis: 'Brew pub' bill favors big casinos

By Paul G. Jones II, Ex. Dir.
Christian Action Comm.

In its unique ability to link bad with bad, the Mississippi Legislature has found a way to increase alcohol consumption and casino profits at the same time.



Senate Bill (SB) 2826, a unique attempt to convert Mississippi restaurants and casinos into mini-breweries, passed a Senate committee and has been assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee.

SB 2826 defines "brew pub" as a mini-brewery on the premises of any restaurant wishing to install and operate such a mini-brewery.

The connection to the gambling industry is apparent in several amendments to the bill that create staggered amounts of alcoholic production based upon the number of rooms operated by a "hospitality operator."

The bill presently before the

House Ways and Means Committee reads:

- ♦ A stand-alone restaurant or restaurant operated by a "hospitality operator" with less than 50 guest rooms is limited to no more than the original 40,300 gallons of light wine or beer per calendar year.

- ♦ A restaurant operated by a "hospitality operator" (note that stand-alone restaurant is no longer mentioned) with 50 or more guest rooms, but less than 500 guest rooms, shall be permitted to manufacture up to 60,000 gallons of light wine or beer per calendar year.

- ♦ A restaurant operated by a "hospitality operator" with more than 500, but less than 1,000 guest rooms, shall not be permitted to manufacture more than 75,000 gallons of light wine or beer per calendar year.

- ♦ A restaurant operated by a "hospitality operator" with more than 1,000 guest rooms shall not manufacture more than 99,000 gallons of light wine or beer per calendar year.

The only restaurants with access to the larger number of guest rooms are connected with casinos. SB 2826 is an obvious attempt to increase consumption of alcohol while at the same time giving a unique advantage in sales volume to casinos.

The question of casino "brew pubs" regulation seems at best to be only vaguely addressed in the bill. The authority to regulate alcohol beverages traditionally rests with the State Tax Commission, but oversight of casinos generally rests with the State Gaming Commission.

Such vague regulatory oversight can only lead to problems. Anyone who wishes to

express displeasure with SB 2826 can take the following steps:

- ♦ Tell your state senator how disappointed you are that such a bill even passed the Senate committee in the first place.

- ♦ Ask your senator if he/she voted for the bill or intends to do so in the future.

- ♦ Ask your state representative to vote against the bill every time it is brought up in that chamber.

- ♦ Write the chairman and members of the House Ways and Means Committee to inform them of your opposition to the bill and your desire to see it defeated in the committee (see listing at end of article).

- ♦ Keep a tally of how your senator and representative vote on such measures, since this information may be of personal interest to some voters during the 1999 legislative elections.

Individual legislators can be reached during the legislative session at (601) 359-3770, or at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205.

For more information on these and other legislative matters or to find out the names of your legislators, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or (800) 746-1651.

House Ways and Means Committee members are: Charlie Williams (Senatobia), chairman; Alice Clarke (Jackson), vice-chairman; Ed Blackmon (Canton); Tom Cameron (Greenville); Mary Coleman (Jackson); J.P. Compretta (Bay St. Louis); Jim Ellington (Jackson); Tyrone Ellis (Starkville); Alvin Endt (Ocean Springs); Frances Fredericks (Gulfport); Jimmy Green (Itta Bena); Danny Guice Jr. (Ocean Springs); Reta Holden (Grenada); Tommy Horne (Meridian); Bobby Howell (Kilmichael); Bennett Malone (Carthage); Warner McBride (Courtland); Joe Mitch McElwain (Ripley); Bobby Moak (Bogue Chitto); Ellis Moss (Corinth); John Reeves (Jackson); Tommy Reynolds (Charleston); Nolan Rogers (Pearl); Ed Ryan (Biloxi); Miriam Simmons (Columbia); Jim Simpson (Gulfport); Ferr Smith (Carthage); Charlie Smith (Eupora); Ken Stribling (Jackson); Bobby Joe Taylor (Waynesboro); Alfred Walker Jr. (Columbus); Tommy Woods (Byhalia); and Charles Young Sr. (Meridian).

Jones

NAMB, Ex. Committee give restructure update

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — After six months, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) is "on track toward generating over \$6 million in operating efficiencies in its first full year of operations," according to a joint statement by NAMB and the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Executive Committee.

"NAMB's first six months are a story of hoped-for operating efficiencies becoming financial reality," the statement given to Baptist Press said.

Officials from NAMB and the Executive Committee's Budget Process Study Committee recently met and then issued the statement Feb. 3.

The restructuring of the SBC brought NAMB into existence, merging three former agencies — Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission. The group charged with implementing the restructuring of the SBC, the Implementation Task Force, had forecast that NAMB would realize nearly \$7 million in operating efficiencies each year in its first five years of operation as measured against the combined budgets of the merged agencies.

"While the one-time costs of restructuring have exceeded these operating efficiencies in this first year, this is normative and in line with major organizational restructuring across America," the statement said. "In addition, \$2 million has been redirected from what would have been the combined budgets of the three agencies ... to the seminaries for leadership training and to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission."



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

No one seems concerned that our Sunday School class has parties at a restaurant that serves alcohol and at a casino restaurant. How should I react to this?

You bring up an interesting — and timely — issue for Mississippi Baptists. The Bible counsels us that even though we are in the world, we are not to be of the world (John 18:36, 2 Cor. 10:3). In my opinion, the fine distinction in this case is that restaurants don't serve food to entice alcohol drinking, but casinos do serve food to entice gambling. There seems to be great variance among Baptists in our state about this matter, but the larger issue is the impression our conduct leaves with non-Christians who are always watching to see if we mean what we say. We are called upon to give up any hint of impropriety that may cause others to stumble (Rom. 14:19-21). Do you believe that such conduct by your Sunday School class may cause others to stumble? Bring this up in your class; you can be virtually assured that others are uncom-

fortable with this but haven't spoken up for lack of a leader. You may be that leader. Talk it over with the Lord and find out exactly what he is saying to you regarding this issue.

A reader recently responded to the letter from the Christian who smoked. I want to thank this reader for her honest testimony and for reminding us of the power of God and that he has given us the choice to be obedient:

No, your soul won't go to hell for smoking, but you are living your life here on earth as if you were already in hell. You are not happy because you know smoking is not good for you, and nowadays it is totally unacceptable. I smoked for 60 years. I prayed all those years for the Lord to take away the habit and set me free, and he did that a month ago. I hope you don't let yours go that far. The Lord can and will help you stop, but he was also telling me to help myself. I had been asking him to do it all for me. I just wanted to share my real-life testimony.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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BVU HRYKKYU AK KSY
DSBD HYRAYGYU: TXP
DSYPY KSBRR HY B
NYTPXPWBVOY XT DSXKY
DSAVZK CSAOS CYPY
DXRU SYP TPXW DSY
RXPU.

RQEY XZY: TXPDL-TAGY

Clue: G = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Four Four.